

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 72, 73, and 78-88 are pending. By this amendment, Claims 72 and 86 are amended. Support for the present amendments can be found, for example, in Claim 72. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 86 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Sugiyama (Japanese Publication No. 2001-305907); and Claims 72, 73, 78-85, 87, and 88 were allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowed subject matter in Claims 72, 73, 78-85, 87, and 88.

This amendment is submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 which, after final rejection, permits entering of amendments canceling claims, complying with any requirement of form expressly set forth in a previous Office Action, or presenting rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal. The present amendment amends Claim 72 to correct a minor informality and amends Claim 86 to include subject matter from allowed Claim 72. Therefore, this amendment only includes subject matter which was earlier presented. Thus, no new matter has been added, and this amendment does not raise new issues requiring further consideration and/or search. It is therefore respectfully requested that the present amendment be entered under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Turning now to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection, as discussed below.

Claim 86 is amended to recite, in part, “a width of the lubricant is less than a width of the brush roller and the width of the brush roller is less than a width of the lubricant applying blade in contact with the latent image carrier in a longitudinal direction thereof in the image forming apparatus.” As acknowledged in the Office Action on page 3 in paragraph 4, the

cited art does not disclose or suggest the above-noted feature presently recited in Claim 86.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claim 86 be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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